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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated March 6, 2006. Claims 2-19 and 21-57 are pending. Claims 1 and 20 were previously canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claims 23, 26-28 and 36 have been amended to correct informalities therein, without introducing new matter or new issues and without narrowing a scope of the claimed invention. Therefore, entry of this amendment is requested. Accordingly, claims 2-19 and 21-57 are presented for reconsideration, with claims 4 and 23 being in independent form.

Claims 21-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

In response, the claims have been carefully reviewed and amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-19 and 21-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0008258 A1 (Suzuki et al.).

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 4 and 23 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to image processing techniques wherein an image size is changed in order to be suitable for an output medium. For example, when an image is to be printed by a printer or reproduced by a copier, onto paper, often the image is adjusted according to paper size to fit the image on the paper. Depending on the particular size change, additional processing

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(some examples of which are discussed in the application at pages 2-10), which may involve a combination of techniques, may be necessary. Applicant devised improvements wherein when, for example, a combination of techniques are applied in processing for size change, a sharing ratio is determined for allocating resources for a first processing way and a second processing way. Each of independent claims 4 and 23 addresses these features, as well as additional features.

Suzuki, as understood by Applicant, proposed techniques for converting color image resolution from relatively low-resolution to relatively high-resolution. The techniques proposed by Suzuki include inputting image data pixel-by-pixel, and for each pixel, categorizing the pixel as belonging to one of four types of images and then applying a corresponding one of four pixel multiplying methods (1-4) to the pixel (in step S17 of Suzuki).

Feature quantity extractor 309 shown in Fig. 33 of Suzuki has the function of switching an image density for each pixel (see Suzuki, [0177]).

However, neither step S17 nor feature quantity extractor 309 of Suzuki involve determining a sharing ratio in processing as between a first processing way and a second processing way. The present application provides example of said sharing of resources at, for example, pages 41-57 of the application.

Suzuki simply does not disclose or suggest a first processing way and a second processing way are sharing process resources according to a sharing ratio, as provided by the claimed invention of independent claims 4 and 23 of the present application.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 4 and 23, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

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In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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